Underutilisation of plant capacities in IDPL

2942. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1263 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th August, 1990 and state:

(a) what is the total estimated requirement of Vitamin B6 in the country;

(b) what are the reasons of unutilised capacity of Vitamin B6 by IDPL;

(c) whether it is a fact that IDPL is deliberately reducing the production of Vitamin B6 and increasing the price;

(d) what are the reasons for price decontrol of Vitamin B6 when there are only two producers and the turnover is more than Rs. Fifty lacs;

(e) whether his Ministry is taking any steps to investigate into the affairs of IDPL;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof;

(g) what steps are being taken either to utilise the plant fully or to dispose it off: and

(h) what are the details of other plants of IDPL which are underutilised and to what percentage and what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA): (a) The estimated demand for Vitamin B6 is about 58 Tonnes.

(b) The licensed and installed capacity of IDPL for Vitamin B6 is 50 Tonnes and 30 Tonnes respectively. Actual production of this item by IDPL during last three years was as under :—

1987-88 . . .	12·64 Tonnes
1988-89 . . .	15·19 Tonnes
1989-90 . . .	8·49 Tonnes

Due to sluggish offtake resulting in accumulation of inventory the production was trimmed down. However, certain equipments were commonly utilised for the production of Vitamin B6 and Chloroquin Phosphate to meet the requirements of National Malaria Eradication Programme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The decontrol of this Vitamin as a bulk drug was done on the recommendation of the Kelkar Committee.

(e) and (f) Government is reviewing the reasons for sickness of IDPL for considering a restructuring and rehabilitation plan for the company.

(g) The production of B6 is regulated to meet the market demand. The spare capacity of part of the equipment is utilised in the manufacture of Chloroquin Phosphate to meet the requirements of National Malaria Eradication Programme.

(h) The details of underutilisation of less than 10% for major bulk drugs are attached. (*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 100).

Announcement of new drug policy by Government

2943. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new policy on drugs is likely to be

announced by Government as reported in the 'Sunday Observer' of the 1st July. 1990;

(b) whether the proposed 200 drugs which will come under price control are from amongst the list of about 250 essential drugs prepared by World Health Organisation;

(c) whether the price control will cut the profit margin of manufacturers and traders, who in turn are likely to cut or stop production of these essential drugs; and

(d) if so, what specific steps are proposed to be taken to deal with the problem and by when the new policy is likely to come into force ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) Government has decided to review the 1986 Drug Policy with the objectives of increasing the indigenous production of drugs encouraging fresh investments and giving reasonable return to the industry, as well as to make quality medicines easily available to the consumers at reasonable prices. The process of review is on.

Categorisation of drugs needed for National Health Programmes

2944. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA :
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 899 on the 16th August. 1990 given in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) when did his Ministry took the decision to include all drugs needed for National Health Programmes under Category-I;

(b) when his Ministry wrote to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide the list of such drugs and names of the National Health Programmes;

(c) whether his Ministry has received the list from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and

(d) if so, when and if not, what steps have been taken to expedite the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) The requisite information has already been finished in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2187 answered on 27-8-1990.

Price approval by importers of formulations

2945. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Questton 901 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all imported formulations based on drugs not included under Schedules I and II are exempted from price control irrespective of sales turnover;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the importers of medicines have applied for price approval under DPCO, 1987;

(c) what is the total number of applications received by his Ministry for fixation of prices for imported formulations under DPCO, 1987 and in how many cases prices were fixed;

(d) whether it is a fact that importers are charging very high prices for their formulations; and